

Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2003

In attendance:

Paul Ninham, Oneida Tribe (host)
Jennifer Hill-Kelley, Oneida Tribe
Tom Nelson, Oneida Tribe
Inez Dommer, Oneida Tribe
Charlie Wooley, USFWS
Colette Charbonneau, USFWS
Gary Besaw, Menominee Tribe
Doug Cox, Menominee Tribe

Kathy Cavanaugh, MI AG
Jessica Mistak, MDNR
Bruce Baker, WDNR
Greg Hill, WDNR
Laura Madsen, WDNR
Ron Kazmierczak, WDNR
George Boronow, WDNR
Terry Lychwick, WDNR

Executive Session

*Several issues regarding land ownership, geographic priorities, and Restoration Technical Representatives Team (RT2) responsibilities and authority were discussed. The RT2 will meet to develop short-term restoration strategies to work towards long-term restoration goals developed in the Restoration Plan. Strategy options will be presented to the Trustee Council at the end of June or beginning of July. The information developed from the strategies will be used to further refine the Technical Workgroup Charter, Restoration Project Selection Guidance, Land Transaction Policy, and Public Participation Plan.

Open Meeting

*Colette Charbonneau gave an update on the Restoration Plan. The Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment has been revised as appropriate and Chapter 7 completed which contains responses to public comments. The main comment received from the public was the concurrence of accepting Alternative C as the preferred alternative. A Finding of No Significant Impact was completed and signed by the Deputy Regional Director for FWS, Region 3 in coordination with the Trustees. Bruce Baker made the motion to approve the Restoration Plan update. No objections.

*The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council Vision was reviewed and approved. Gary Besaw made the motion to approve the Vision. No objections.

*The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council Mission was reviewed and approved. Kathy Cavanaugh made the motion to approve the Mission. No objections.

*The Restoration Technical Representatives Team Charter was reviewed. The Trustee Council wants to see further refinement of the responsibilities and authority of the RT2 written into the Charter. Also needed is the addition of receiving expertise from the private sector when needed. Bruce Baker made the motion to accept the current language of the Charter with the expectation that more detailed information will be added and will be reviewed by the Council.

*The Restoration Project Selection Guidance was reviewed. This document was put together for proposal writers to better understand the criteria for proposal acceptance and ranking that was

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developed in the Restoration Plan. The Council asked the RT2 to further refine the language in the document. Bruce Baker made the motion to accept the Guidance with the expectation that more detailed information will be added and will be reviewed by the Council.

*"How to Submit a Restoration Project Proposal" document was reviewed. Kathy Cavanaugh made the motion to approve the document as it currently is. No objections.

*The Land Transaction Policy was reviewed. Kathy Cavanaugh made the motion to approve the document with the following change: It is the preference of the Trustees to obtain fee title or permanent conservation easement for any real property meant to satisfy the goals of the Restoration Plan. No objections.

*The Public Participation Plan was reviewed. The document needs to be further refined and amended to include the fact that it is the restoration proposal project author's responsibility to provide information to the RT2 pertaining to adequate public review and compliance with all state, tribal and federal laws. This is a criterion outlined in the Restoration Plan and needs to be added to the Public Participation Plan. Bruce Baker made the motion to accept the Public Participation Plan with refinement. No objections.

*Finalized documents will be formatted the same and will contain the date of the latest update. It is understood that all documents pertaining to the RT2 are 'living' documents and will be amended as issues are brought forward and experience is gained.

*Greg Hill presented an update on restoration project implementation with an overview of the upcoming restoration webpage. Seventeen projects are currently funded from all of the restoration categories found in the Restoration Plan. See attached map with projects listed. Gary Besaw made a motion to accept the update. No objections.

*Greg Hill led a discussion on the restoration project proposals that currently are being reviewed and ranked by the RT2. The RT2 is not in a position to make a recommendation for implementation of any restoration projects to the Trustee Council at this time. Fifty-four restoration projects were submitted for funding. The RT2 has reviewed each project and there is not enough information on the majority of the projects. The RT2 will contact the sponsors of the projects for further development of their restoration projects. Since the Trustee Council provided RT2 with further guidance that will be used to more closely evaluate the proposals, it is expected that RT2 will not have a recommendation to implement restoration projects for 3 to 4 months. Bruce Baker made the motion to accept the update from the RT2. No objections.

Public Forum

*Suggestion that public should have been notified of the executive session of the Trustee Council meeting.

*Suggestion for earlier notification (press release) of the meeting so public has time to plan accordingly.

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*Suggestion that restoration project proposals that include land acquisitions may be time-sensitive due to negotiations with willing landowners. Proposal sponsors need to know a reasonable timeframe for proposal acceptance for implementation or not.

*Suggestion to have meeting in a room with better acoustics. The public could not hear the discussion at the Trustee Council table.